Installing cygwin/openssh

One question to think about at the start of an install is whether you want to download cygwin's files to your desktop or whether you want to install online. It's only a matter of local disk space and performance should you need to perform another install. The cygwin packages are typically wrapped into bzip2 format, and bzip2 is automatically included in the download so you can get bootstrapped. So, the initial session consists of a few configuration choices and then downloading and unzipping the files. These functions are all done by the cygwin setup program.

What is cygwin? Historically a number of folks ported things like tar, vi and some of their other unix favorites to a DOS environment. Later, the cygnus project, I believe, devised the idea that a larger body of unix/linux functionality could be more readily ported by supplying a runtime library that maps unix/linux kernel calls into windows exec calls. As a result there is a large assortment of unix/linux code compiled to run natively under windows that links to the interface library, cygwin1.dll. None of the code gets installed into windows itself but into a directory of your choosing. By default this is C:\cygwin. Most of the packages simply run as windows applications that can be manipulated the same way as any other window application. Functions like the clipboard and copy/paste work within cygwin and to/from other windows apps.

One perspective of how well the unix/linux environment is emulated is that cygwin defines several mount points for the user's convenience: c:\windows is mounted as the "root" directory for the rest of the cygwin package. Underneath this directory, you will find the usual bin, etc, home, usr and other common root directories. In a cygwin bash shell one uses forward slashes as separators in a pathname. If you are using NTFS, then concepts of ownership, permissions and ACLs are mapped to their NTFS equivalents. As an example, in a bash shell, /usr/bin is c:\windows\cygwin\usr\bin. For convenience you can also access other drives by prefixing the drive letter or /cygdrive/drive like so:

d:/other directory /cygdrive/d/other directory

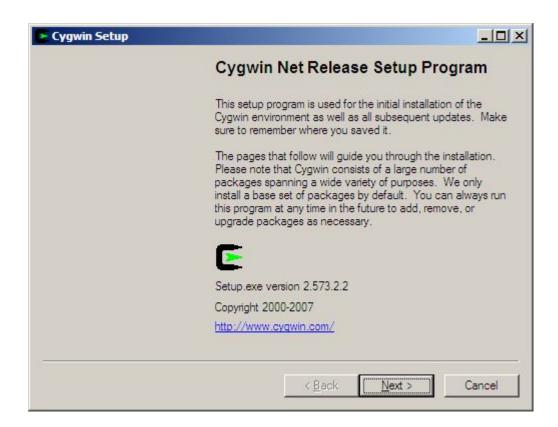
and \$HOME points to /home/username (your local login name) and this c:\cygwin\home\username to windows.

My practice is to pick the cygwin packages (such as openssh) that I want to use because this serves to limit both the download time and disk space by picking a subset of the 1 GB cygwin distribution. The basic installation needed for cygwin's shells, editors and openssh is on the order of 250 MB. The compressed downloaded files are about 80 MB. One can go back to the cygwin download site to add and/or update packages at one's convenience. There's some stuff I find useful such as vi, make, gcc, tar and additional tools. The cygwin package selection process is able to include other packages that your choices depend on, so as you review things, you will likely find choices to be downloaded that you didn't explicitly make.

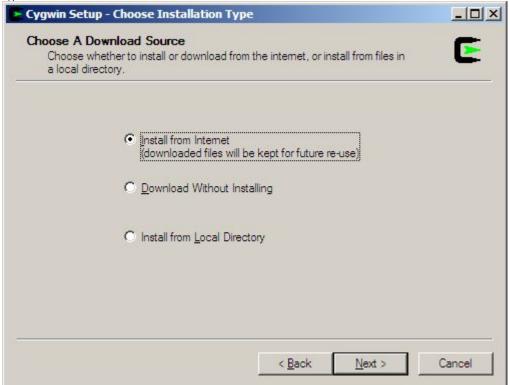
1) download "Install Cygwin Now" from http://www.cygwin.com/

I find it convenient to save this in a Download\cygwin directory where I keep the rest of the stuff I download.

- 2) You'll need to be logged in as administrator or "runas" administrator to perform a setup.
- 3) start setup.exe

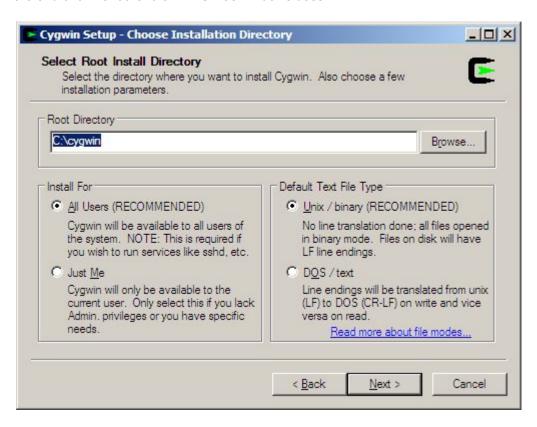


4)pick Next

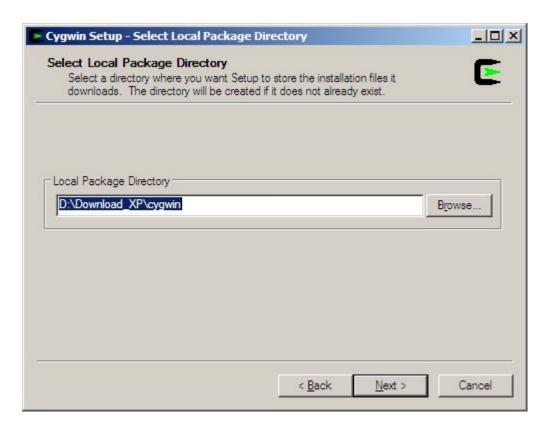


The default above is to save the downloaded files on a local disk.

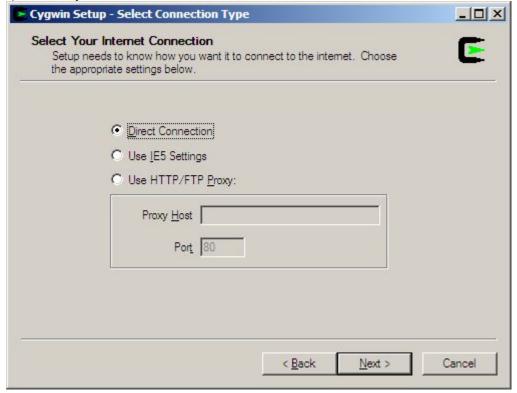
5) This brings us to an installation choice. It is advised to install into a directory and not to c:\ itself. Accepting the default Unix text type is convenient for creating/editing text files that have LF (line feed) at the end of a line rather than LF/CR as windows uses.



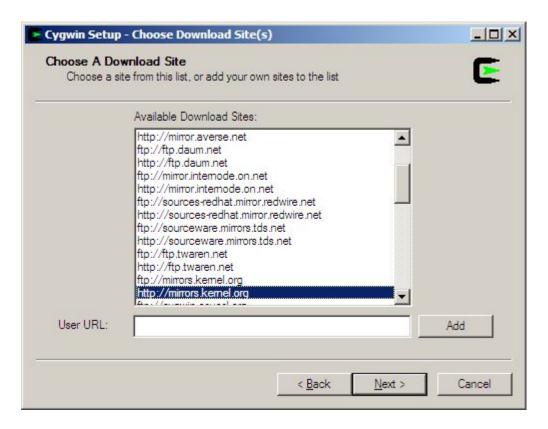
6) Here we get to choose where we want the downloaded bzip2 files stored



7) most likely the default direct connection is the correct choice for the download connection

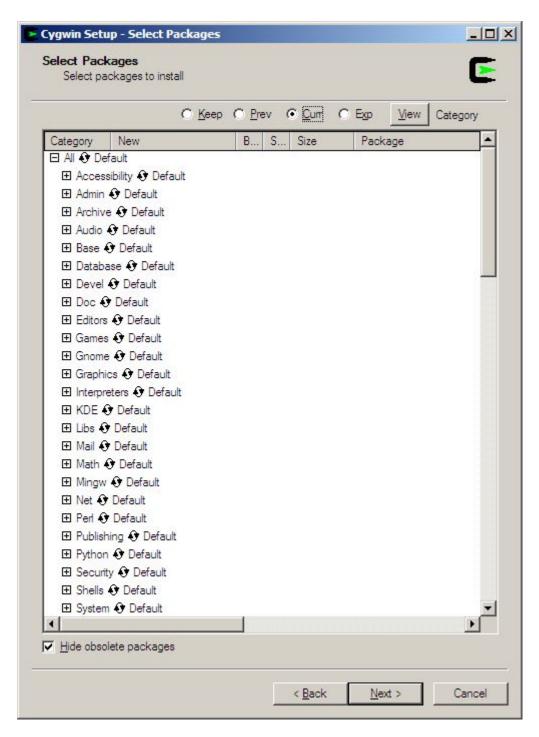


8) This panel offers a choice of download sites. After a bit of checking I found that mirrors.kernel.org is 10 hops from my location -- might even be here in CA.

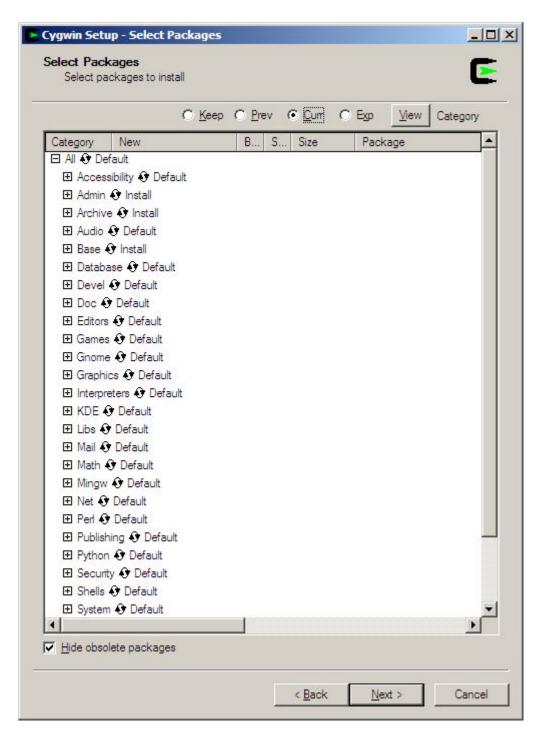


9) and now we get to the list of packages and the picks we should make. This window is stretch-able so you can see more of what's here. Please note that "Default" means no action as far as a new install, but this is meaningful when you return to get an update.

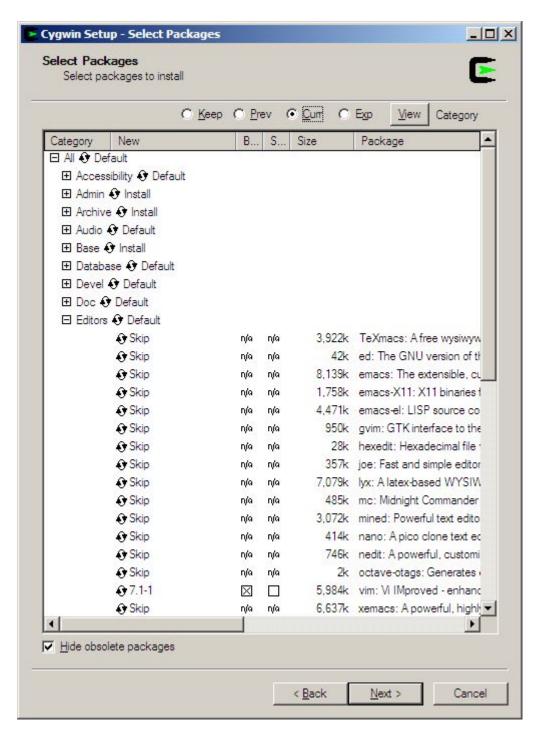
There are lots of packages in each of the categories shown. Picking the plus sign will open the submenu. To the right of the package name, there's a circular arrow that can be used to rotate through a set of choices besides "Default". A single click on this circle will advance to the next choice on the circle and after several clicks, you'll be back to the first choice on the circle. We will work our way from top to bottom. After making our selections, picking Next on this display will start the download and install process.



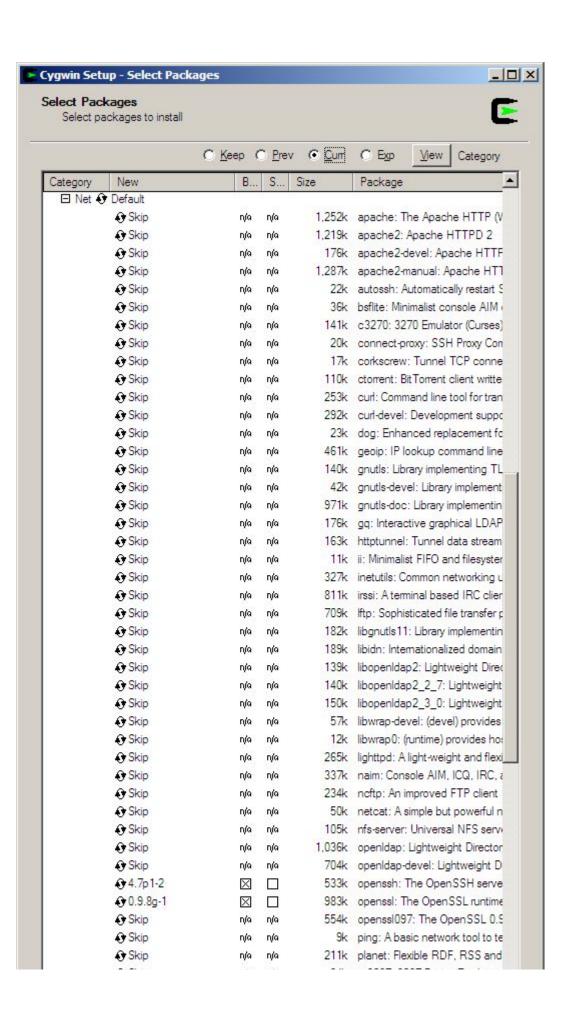
10) using a single mouse click on the circle following Admin, Archive and Base we choose to "install" each of these packages.



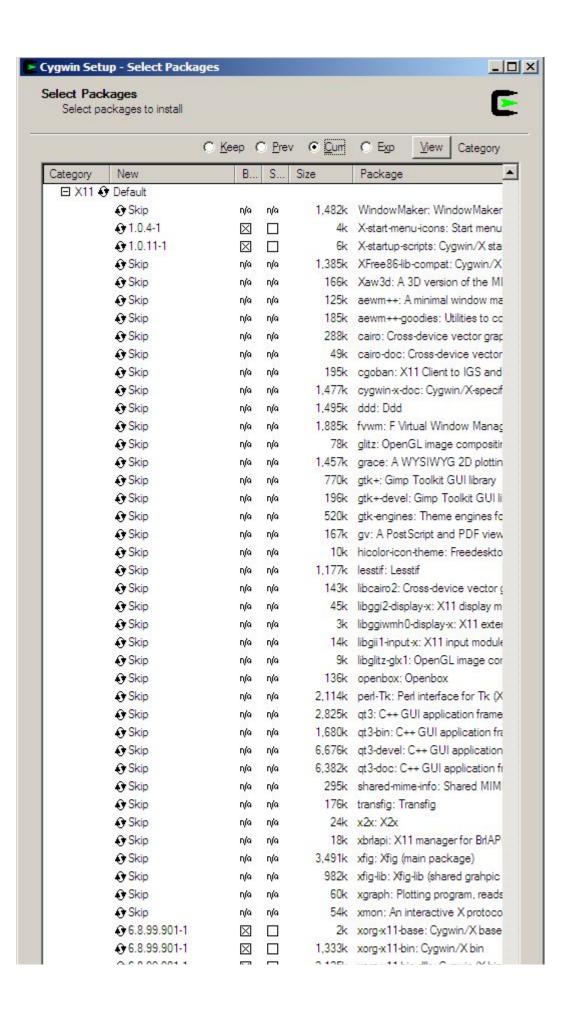
11) here we open "Editors" and I pick Vi(m). You can make your own choice(s) here.



12) open up Net and click on the circle for openssh. Making this choice will also cause openssl to be selected.

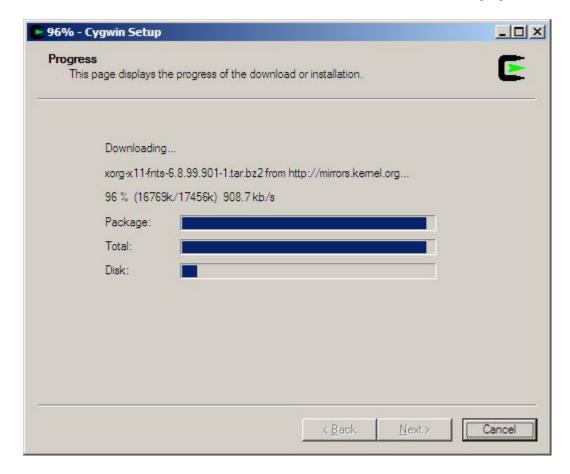


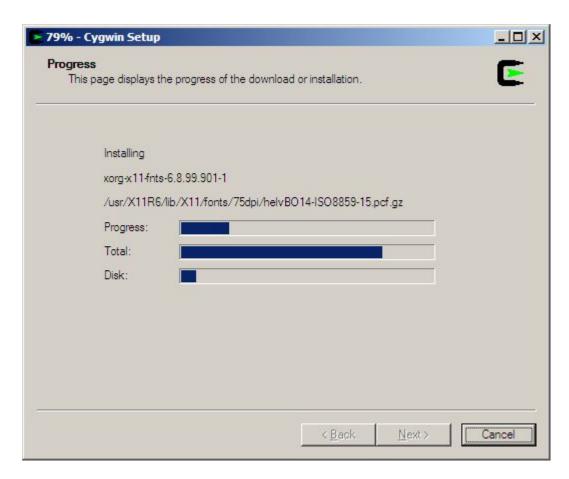
13) Open X11 and select X-start-menu-icons and this will also select the rest of the free X11 packages. While not as fast as the commercial versions, this package provides a useful xterm and other tools. Our goal is to use VNC rather than X11 anyway.



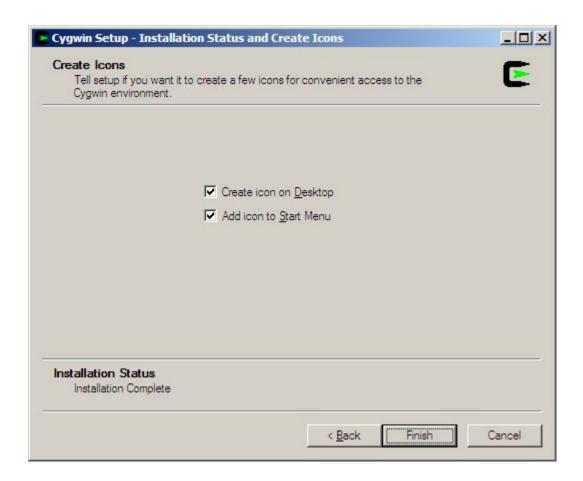
14) you can pick any other packages you might be interested in: e.g., gcc and make are part of Devel.

Choose Next to start the download and installation. You'll be able to watch download progress





and the installation wraps up with



Since I opted for several packages including gcc:

```
dir /s c:\cygwin
...
Total Files Listed:
14632 File(s) 257,158,510 bytes
3530 Dir(s) 237,193,355,264 bytes free
```

and
C:\>dir c:\cygwin
Volume in drive C is xp_pro
Volume Serial Number is 54C4-92CB

Directory of c:\cygwin

```
03/03/2008 04:51 PM
                     <DIR>
                     <DIR>
03/03/2008 04:51 PM
03/03/2008 04:50 PM
                     <DIR>
                                bin
03/03/2008 04:50 PM
                     <DIR>
                                cygdrive
03/03/2008 04:51 PM
                            57 Cygwin.bat
03/03/2008 04:51 PM
                          7,022 Cygwin.ico
03/03/2008 04:50 PM
                     <DIR>
                                dev
03/03/2008 04:50 PM
                     <DIR>
                                etc
03/03/2008 04:50 PM
                     <DIR>
                                lib
03/03/2008 04:50 PM
                     <DIR>
                                tmp
```

03/03/2008 04:50 PM <DIR> usr 03/03/2008 04:50 PM <DIR> var 2 File(s) 7,079 bytes 10 Dir(s) 237,193,355,264 bytes free

Similarly for the d:\download_xp\cygwin directory

Total Files Listed: 104 File(s) 79,944,614 bytes 341 Dir(s) 537,353,854,976 bytes free

starting a bash shell by using a Cygwin prompt:

Copying skeleton files. These files are for the user to personalise their cygwin experience.

These will never be overwritten.

- `./.bashrc' -> `/home/Art//.bashrc'
- `./.bash_profile' -> `/home/Art//.bash_profile'
- `./.inputrc' -> `/home/Art//.inputrc'

Art@bubbles ~ \$ pwd /home/Art